

ADDENDA

THE 1964-65 BREEDING SEASON

By DENISE REID

The Sulphur Point colony was visited on 23/11/64 and some marked changes were observed in the breeding areas. On the Toe, sub-colonies 5, 6, 7 and 8 were more populated than in the 1961-62 season; both sub-cols. 5 and 8 contained c.20 nests.

All the sub-cols. on the Heel (i.e. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15) as well as sub-col. 17 were deserted and a new area on the western shore of the spit, situated just north of sub-col. 16, had been colonized by an estimated 1000+ birds. Many of these birds presumably came from the above mentioned colonies as the sand and loose soil covering the heel and sub-col. 17 was washed away during the 1962-63 floods and the exposed irregular, sharp underlying rock made their old sites unsuitable for nesting. Sub-colony 16 was not yet occupied.

The breeding of Red-billed Gulls was at all stages — from fully fledged chicks (sub-col. 1) to newly formed nests. Several birds, banded as chicks in Nov. 1961, were sitting on nests containing eggs.

The Black-billed Gulls were just starting to breed as only seven nests were present (i.e. two nests in sub-col. 8, two nests in sub-col. 18, two nests on a small rock between sub-cols. 16 and 18, and one nest near the inner margin of the large new colony).

Black-backed Gulls

Two Black-backed Gull nests were seen, each containing three eggs and attended by a solitary adult, just north of the hot pool shown on the map. The writers have not previously known nor seen any Black-backed Gulls nesting in this colony before.



SHORT NOTE

ARCTIC TERN ON FOXTON BEACH

During early November, 1963, fresh to strong westerly winds prevailed over central New Zealand. In the course of a beach patrol on 13/11/63 the remains of an Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisica*) were found on Foxton Beach. The specimen consisted of the entire skeleton with bill, feet and plumage of head, wings and tail intact, the body having been picked clean by fish and/or birds. It was estimated that the bird had died within the last three days, the remains being fresh.

The plumage of crown, nape and forehead to the bill was black; the bill red with the distal one-third blackish; the feet red. On the inner web of the outer primaries next the shaft there was a narrow strip of grey. The tern was evidently an adult. There was no indication of post-breeding moult in the plumage of the head, but the blackening of the bill suggests that the processes of assuming winter appearance had begun.

Measurements taken the following day were:—

Culmen 30.4 mm.; Wing 273; Tarsus 16.2; Tail 164; Toe and claw 24.6.

— M. J. IMBER